



State of West Virginia
Office of the Attorney General

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The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

As the West Virginia Attorney General, I write to you regarding a matter which should be a high priority of the new Republican majority in the House: the fentanyl plague. I urge you to secure the appearance and testimony of the Secretary of State, Antony Blinken.

The United States had 107,622 drug deaths in 2021, a 15% increase of 13,967 from 93,655 in 2020. Almost the entirety of the increase is due to fentanyl. West Virginia had 1,194 fentanyl and other synthetic opioid deaths in 2021, up 10% from 1,083 in 2020. This is a crisis.

Fentanyl in the United States today starts with ingredients made in China. The raw material is sent to Mexico where drug cartels manufacture finished fentanyl and transport it across the border into our country.

Getting at the root causes of the fentanyl crisis will require China and Mexico to take significant steps to curb this menace at its source. We need both countries to do much more to stem the tide of death in America.

Under our Constitution, States like West Virginia cannot engage in diplomacy with foreign countries like China and Mexico. That job is reserved to the federal government, and in particular to the Department of State. When it comes to fentanyl, we are entirely reliant on the Department to get China and Mexico to take steps to cut down on the supply of fentanyl making its way into our country.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken has not shown that he is fully prioritizing fentanyl. Indeed, when President Biden met face-to-face with Chinese President Xi Jinping, the readout of the meeting did not even mention fentanyl, even though subsequent reporting indicates that the issue was raised.

We are losing over 2,000 Americans a week to drug deaths, a majority of whom are dying from fentanyl that flows into our country from China and Mexico. This has to be a number one priority for our Department of State in diplomatic relations with these two countries.

To address this failure, I urge the new Republican majority in the House to utilize its oversight powers to call a hearing and demand that Secretary of State Blinken testify. He must answer for the failings of the past and be required to make commitments going forward.

I know that, under your leadership, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas will be called to testify (and may be impeached). I submit that Secretary of State Blinken's testimony is of equal importance when it comes to the fentanyl problem.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Patrick Morrisey
West Virginia Attorney General